

From: Brian Mason
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:44am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern,

I am truly concerned about the proposed settlement in the current Microsoft anti-trust case. As a professional web developer I deal daily with high tech and the business environment, and am appalled at the lack of choice in the current desktop environment.

Not only is the current situation not competitive, but the future of many new niches in the industry are in the sway due to Microsoft's new drive to bundle technology with Windows XP. I have purchased Windows XP, not because I feel it is a good product or because I want to support a company who makes good software, but because of Microsoft's desktop monopoly it is the product I will have to develop for in the future. The range of bundled Microsoft products, and the blatantly misleading and repetitive "suggestions" to sign up for further Microsoft services is absolutely amazing, and honestly leaves me more than a little concerned for the future of choice in personal computing. If given the opportunity Microsoft will leverage their current desktop monopoly to extend this reach into every high tech field they see as being potentially profitable in the future.

The settlement as proposed by the DOJ at this point does nothing to actively stop Microsoft from anti-competitive behavior in the future, and seem to lack any real way to hold Microsoft accountable for their actions. Any ruling must look not only to the past but to the future - Windows XP and beyond. Without very strict and enforceable regulations guiding the behavior of this acknowledged monopolist, the American people will have even less choice than they do now.

I appeal to you as an American citizen to allow competition to flourish - please do not allow this settlement to go through.

Sincerely,

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